

“the latex produces so intense a reaction . . . as to produce temporary blindness lasting for several days.” In Zimbabwe, one African male is said to have died of hemorrhagic gastroenteritis after swallowing the latex to cure sterility).³ The latex is used as an emetic and antisyphilitic. Malaysians apply boiled stems to painful places. Pounded stems are applied to scurf and swelling, and to extract thorns. The root infusion is used for aching bones. The root is used for snakebite, a poultice of the root or leaves for nose ulcers and hemorrhoids. The wood decoction is used for leprosy and for paralysis of the hands and feet following childbirth. Javanese use the latex for skin ailments and rub latex over bone fractures. Philipinos use root scrapings with coconut oil for stomach pain.¹⁶

The latex contains 53.8 to 79.9% water and water solubles and 2.8 to 3.8% caoutchouc. Fresh latex contains a terpenic alcohol, isoeuphorol ($C_{30}H_{50}O$), identical with euphol from *E. resinifera*. Dried latex contains no isoeuphorol but a ketone euphorone ($C_{30}H_{48}O$). Taraxasterol ($C_{30}H_{50}O \cdot CH_3OH$) and tirucallol ($C_{30}H_{50}O$) have also been isolated. Resin, however, is the principle constituent (75.8 to 82.1%) of the dried latex. The stem contains hentriacontene, hentriacontanol, the antitumor steroid beta-sitosterol, taraxerin, 3,3'-Di-*O*-methylellagic acid, ellagic acid, and a glycoside fraction which hydrolyzes to give kampferol and glucose, and *circa* 0.1% saponin acetates. The whole plant contains 7.4% citric acids with some malonic and some bernstein (= succinic?) acids.³³

Toxicity — Exudes a caustic latex proven to produce uveitis and kerato-conjunctivitis in dog eyes and to exhibit tumor-promoting activity on mouse skin. Latex collected in Colombia contained 12-*O*-2*Z*-4*E*-octadienoyl-4-deoxyphorbol-13-acetate which exhibits an irritant potency equivalent to that of the standard irritant, phorbol-12-tetradecanoate-13-acetate.¹⁶² Fatalities are reported following ingestion of the latex for folk medicinal purposes.^{3 42}

To the physician — Hardin and Arena³⁴ suggest emesis or gastric lavage, and mineral oil.